

Precious Memories with our baby boy

C A S P A R

our personal story



We are a thirty something couple who live in Hove, East Sussex and we were expecting our first baby in November 2009.

Our dreams were shattered when during labour our beautiful baby, who we named **CASPAR**, suffered lack of oxygen, due to an undiagnosed Placental Abruption. He was born by Emergency C-Section. We spent the next 12 precious days falling in love with our son, but Caspar had been severely brain damaged and on 16 November 2009 we had to live every parents nightmare by removing his ventilator. He died peacefully in our arms.

We can never bring our son Caspar back and are forever heartbroken, and so all we can do is hold the memories of our time with Caspar close to our hearts.

From one parent to another let us tell you how we created so many memories with our son. I cannot stress to you how **IMPORTANT** this is. Whether you have lost your precious baby before or during birth, neonatally or find yourselves in the devastating position we were in with Caspar, don't have regrets; whatever your situation you can still make lifelong memories.



During our 12 precious days with Caspar we would tell him all about his mummy and daddy and how much we loved him, mummy would tell him **STORIES** and sing **SONGS** to him, nursery rhymes & 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star'. Each day we would take **PHOTOS**, lots, some with mummy and daddy in, our family together.

Caspar was in a cot in the Trevor Mann Baby Unit. He had two **TEDDYBEARS** with him always - a cow called 'Mooey' that mummy sleeps with every night and a little puppy called 'Muffin Junior' who stayed with our little boy. We used to spend the days studying Caspar, checking out every little wrinkle and feature, and similarities to us, his parents.

We had given Caspar a **BLANKET**, we made sure it never got washed, we wanted to keep our sons smell forever.

We were lucky in some ways, we got to change Caspars **NAPPY** and clean his eyes and mouth just as every parent should be able to do. Hold his little hand and **KISS** him all day long. Each day, each hour, each minute, we fell deeper and deeper in love with our son.



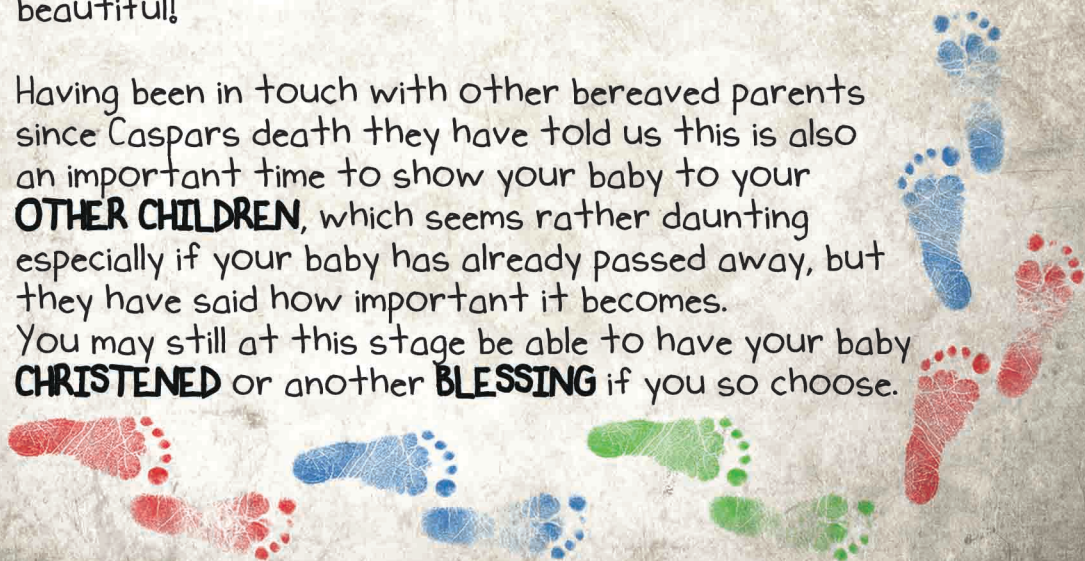
We knew we had to say goodbye. We **VIDEOED** Caspar on our camera; this is so special to us now, so real. We took his tiny **HAND** and **FOOT PRINTS** and cut a lock of his already dark and wavy mass of **HAIR** (I wish I had more now).

We really wanted to keep Caspar to ourselves, the three of us, but I am pleased that the wonderful nurses that lovingly looked after Caspar advised us to show our little boy to our **FAMILY** and **CLOSE FRIENDS**.

We are so pleased we did, it made it so much more real to them, and now when we talk about Caspar it really makes a difference. Why wouldn't we want to show him off, he is beautiful!

Having been in touch with other bereaved parents since Caspar's death they have told us this is also an important time to show your baby to your **OTHER CHILDREN**, which seems rather daunting especially if your baby has already passed away, but they have said how important it becomes.

You may still at this stage be able to have your baby **CHRISTENED** or another **BLESSING** if you so choose.



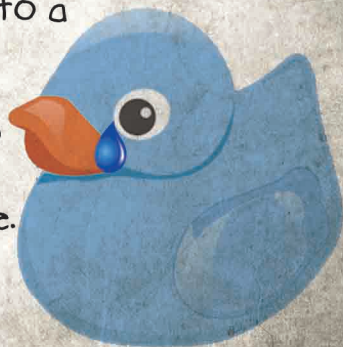
DO NOT BE RUSHED, do everything you can. I know its all too much to take in but I know how precious these moments are, they have to last a lifetime.

On day 12 of Caspars life, we made the devastating decision to remove his ventilator; our baby, our poor little son. We held him close between us and kept telling him how much we loved him and that he would be ok, and that he will always be in our hearts.

Caspar quietly slipped away. We then wanted to **BATH** Caspar and cuddle him properly for the first time with no tubes, skin on skin. We then **DRESSED** him in his sleep suit and little hat, he looked gorgeous, he slept between us that night, we didn't stop cuddling him for a moment.

The next day we didn't want to leave Caspar in the hospital mortuary alone, we arranged to take him to a funeral directors in Hove.

So the moment we had looked forward to so much of leaving the hospital with our baby become so tragic and incomprehensible.



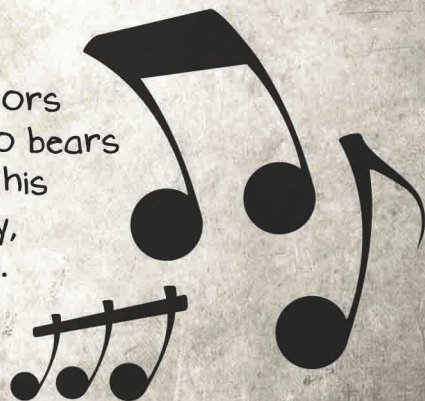
We wanted to take Caspar to see his home. We left the hospital and took Caspar to the quiet end of the **BEACH**, this would have been a large part of his life in Brighton.

IT MAY SOUND STRANGE BUT DO WHATEVER YOU WANT, DON'T BE AFRAID, IT'S YOUR PRECIOUS BABY, NOT THE HOSPITALS.

We took Caspar **HOME** in his **COMING HOME OUTFIT**. I placed him in his **COT** and played his **COT MUSIC**, he looked so special in his nursery.

I know you are wondering how Caspar looked, well I can tell you he looked the same, just had little red cheeks as if he had been out on a cold winters day. His daddy wanted him to stay the night at ours but mummy was worried he may deteriorate, I shouldn't have, it would have been another night holding my beautiful son.

We took Caspar to the funeral directors wrapped up in his blanket, with his two bears in his Moses basket, with a **PHOTO** of his mummy and daddy to keep him company, promising to see him the next morning.



His funeral was seven days later and so each day we went to see our son Caspar to **CUDDLE** him, **KISS** him and **TALK** to him, we even changed his nappy again so we could feel like normal parents.

This time we spent with Caspar was so important, and we are so glad we didn't miss a moment with him; special, private, irreplaceable moments.

We each wrote Caspar a **LETTER**, copied it and gave it to him. Caspar never opened his eyes, we didn't want to have never seen **OUR SONS EYES** so we gently opened them.

We saw Caspars whole body in the TMBU but we do regret we never saw **CASPARS BACK**, and wish we had a photo of Caspar **NAKED**, it's better to take the photos and not look at them than not to have them at all.

We had a lady come and take **MOULDS** of Caspars **HANDS** and **FEET**, they have been made on to a tile, its amazing, we can now touch our sons hands and feet. All in all we took over **300 PHOTOS**, they are the best thing we now own.



Caspar is missed beyond belief, and we will never get over losing our beautiful son. We love him so much and he will always play a massive part in our lives.

After chatting to other parents in the same devastating position I hear them say all the time:

'IF ONLY I HAD...WITH MY BABY'.

We will never say that because we seized every precious moment with our son and created the most important thing in our lives, **MEMORIES WITH OUR SON CASPAR.**

We write this as loving parents to our son Caspar and hope by passing on our experiences, that you too can make many **IRREPLACABLE MEMORIES WITH YOUR PRECIOUS BABY TOO.**

With love,

Caspars Mummy & Daddy x

Please feel free to get in touch:

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